



*"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" - Hebrews 6:19*

# Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - January 8, 2023

## 2023 THEME: I BELONG TO HIM!

*by Troy Spradlin*

One of the strongest emotions we feel is the power of acceptance, or rejection. God created us as social beings (Gen 2:18; Eph 2:22). That explains why personal interaction is such an innate, fundamental need for every human being. To feel rejected is, perhaps, the worst distress we may ever experience in our lives, while the sentiment of belongingness is one of the greatest joys we can have. The sense of belonging is very real and deep. It is an emotion we should all be sensitive to and embrace, especially in the church.



Sadly, there are many who will turn to a negative influence when trying to fill that primary need within themselves. It is the key reason why so many young people, who come from broken families, will gravitate toward gangs, crime syndicates, subcultures, and/or some drug nexus, in order to fill the void in their lives, especially in urban environments. It is such a strong emotion that it drives people to become part of fringe groups like cults, extreme activism, terrorists organizations, hate groups, and conspiracy factions. Even the "+" sign at the end of LGBTQIA+ is for representing those who don't fit into one of the designated categories - it is a symbol of inclusion, a sign to show belongingness. These are all proof that human beings want to feel like they belong and will go to extreme measures to fill that innate desire.

These facts of life and society, that I have presented here, teaches us that **what we use to fill our need of belonging will greatly affect what we believe and how we behave.** This becomes blatantly obvious when we come to the full realization that we all belong to God, everything belongs to Him, "*Behold, to Yahweh your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.*" (Deut 10:14, cf. Ps 82:8) In fact, the entire Bible is about God redeeming His creation (us) back to Him after we broke the relationship (cf. Gen 3). He made us with the desire to belong. Thus, He wants to fulfill that desire by rescuing us from that broken relationship, so that we can once again, belong to Him (John 3:16; Rom 5:8).

The theme, or principle of belonging is fulfilled through Christ Jesus. To loosely paraphrase John 10:27, Jesus said, "*My sheep [that belong to me], hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.*" To truly fill the sentiment of belonging, we must turn to Christ. Even the Apostle Paul dealt with people struggling with that concept in Corinth, "*Each of you is saying, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to the Messiah.' Is the Messiah divided?*" (1 Cor 1:12-13 - ISV) He then went on to write that "*we are not our own,*" and that we "*were bought at a price*" (1 Cor 6:19). In Galatians 2:20, he eloquently explained the true heart of a Christian, "*it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*" Christians belong to Christ.

People want to belong, but true fulfillment of belongingness can only be realized if one is part of God's family (Eph 2:19; 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 20:12). **This year, our theme will be, "I Belong to Him."** We will have lessons, Bible studies, events and activities to help us more strongly develop the sense of community and belongingness within our church family. People want to belong and if they see us loving each other, sharing that belongingness as a family, then they too, will want to be a part of God's family!

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# Do Not Fear

by Casey Bearden

Fear is a powerful thing. Yes, we should have a healthy fear of god, but that's more of a respect-type fear, not the type we're talking about. The type of fear discussed is defined as "an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that something or someone is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat". Also described as "a feeling of anxiety concerning the outcome of something or the safety and well-being of someone." This is the type of fear that we let control us in matters of life and faith from time to time. The encouragement we received was to overcome that fear, and be bold in our faith.

This isn't a new emotion, and God took the time to help alleviate fear in those who followed Him. He gives this encouragement through Isaiah in Chapter 43 - "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.3For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



**Gulf Coast AREAWIDE**  
2022-2023

- AUGUST 21 @ CREEKWOOD  
Community of Love & Life
- SEPTEMBER 11 @ SUMMERDALE  
A Place of Acceptance
- OCTOBER 16 @ MARGARET ST.  
A Place of Fellowship
- NOV. 11-13 @ FUEL RETREAT  
Gulf Coast Bible Camp
- JANUARY 8 @ SCENIC HILLS  
A People of Sacrifice
- FEBRUARY 5 @ SPANISH FORT  
Partnering Strengths
- MARCH 12 @ ROBERTSDALE  
Empowering Personal Value
- APRIL 16 @ REGENCY  
Support Through Struggles



**SNAC**  
**SUNDAY NIGHT**  
**AFTER CHURCH**  
January 22 | Webb's

**YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT**



Wed. January 18 @  
5 pm in the FH



March 17 - 19, 2023  
**SOAR YOUTH RALLY**  
**WHAT IS TRUTH?**  
Sign up & pay by  
February 12



**LADS TO LEADERS**  
**L2L**  
BUILDING GODLY LEADERS

**Upcoming Events/Info**

January 22 -  
Workshop,  
Bible Bowl Pre-Test,  
Speech Dress  
Rehearsal,  
\$45 registration due



**BIBLE TIME**  
January 22nd  
**WITH KIDS!**

# DOMESTIC MISSIONS

## Resolve

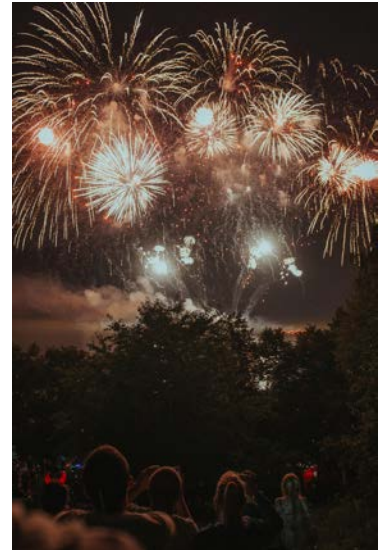
by Trevor Smoot

With the arrival of the new year, many folks often usher in at least one 'New Year's Resolution.' Whatever the resolution, they are nearly always meant to improve the quality of life for whoever makes them. (For many, particularly in the church, it seems the most common of these are eating better, working out, and reading their Bible more.) Unfortunately, these undeniable personal improvements (I Tim. 4:8; Col 1:9f) can prove to be discouraging challenges. Here are a few things to think on whenever you resolve, New Year's or otherwise.

**1. Is your heart right?** First, it's useful to determine whether or not the desired change is even rightly motivated. "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (Col 3:17). Any goal or lifestyle change that does not seek to glorify God first lacks spiritual resolve at its core and should be reconsidered. Maintaining a resolution based on weak spiritual resolve is not unlike one who disregards Christ's teachings: it is foolish (Matt. 7:24-27). A person seeking to improve their physical appearance for sake of vanity is less noble than the one who henceforth only plays multiplayer video games in the hope those interactions yield spiritual fruit.

**2. Is your goal right?** A rock-solid motivation is good, but if the intended action isn't in any way Biblical, it should not be 'resolved' at all. Consider exercise, for example. Sure, with all of the enormous benefits it brings to one's standard of living, it seems alright, but are there any passages indicating it is truly good? Many could reasonably refer to passages on hard work or laziness, but Paul's 'most famous' verse on the subject addresses it head-on. "On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is of little profit..." (I Tim. 4:7b-8a). Implied here is this: if spiritual priorities and responsibilities are right, obtaining that profit is worth a resolution. Similar passages exist regarding diet, sleeping well, and - shocking - Bible reading.

**3. It'll be alright.** The hardest part about resolutions is seldom determining whether they are the right thing to do, but keeping them at all. Estimates vary, but some studies suggest nearly 90% of people forgo their resolutions in the first week; at which point, many give up on them altogether, with novelty serving as the premier struggle. It's definitely hard to feel motivated to do something, even (especially?) for God if you don't even know where to begin. Whether it's figuring out a diet, starting a gym membership, or trying to better study the Bible, those first few steps always seem the hardest. If any struggle with this, here is some validation: the Spirit knows starting anything is hard. He inspired James to discuss how enduring temptations without sinning helps produce greater perseverance (Jas. 1:2-6). If it's true that spiritual strength grows as it endures, then it must be true of all other forms of strength. Those first steps seem hard because *they are*. Expect that, work through, and it'll be alright.



**Kingdom Leaders**  
Men's Ministry: Fellowship & Study  
**January 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Margaret Street  
CHURCH of CHRIST

**5th Sunday Fellowship Meal**  
**JANUARY 29TH**  
**THEME TBD**

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

## Special

- Patricia Ann\* - prayers, health (MZL)
- John Broam family - loss of John
- Winston Burnham - permanent oblation 1/5
- The Davis family\* - birth of Rosalie!
- Louise English's families - loss of Louise\*
- Lauren Kreis (Martin family) - prayers
- Bob Locklin\* - chest bruising, recovery
- Richard McCool - heart attack, recovery
- Laura Oliver - requesting prayers!
- The Owens' family\* - loss of Charlotte
- Glenn Rose - SRH, fluid of heart (Garcia\*)
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - future hip surgery
- Tony Smith family - loss of Tony (Fisher\*)
- Zylar Thompson - rescheduled surgery
- Maggie Wilson\* - surgery 1/9

## 2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

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## Expecting Mothers

- Lauren Godwin\* - January 2023
- Heidi Hudgens - January 2023 (Avalon)
- Nikki Tebbe - January 2023 (Blisse's cousin)
- Jennifer Cannon - March 2023

## Mission Works

- Shanahans\* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute - Paul Discher

## Students in College

- Haley Bartell
- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

## Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford\*)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health (past member)
- Winston Burnham\* - recovery
- Sherryn Canniff\* - health, pain
- WillieMae Cosby - hand surgery (McGriff\*)
- Sherry Davis\* - health
- Fatima Deem - pregnant, problems (Nunes)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire\*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee\* mom)
- Madeline Farley\* - broken wrist, recovery
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham
- Donald Hamilton - surgery coming (McGriff\*)
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Barbara Helms\* - health
- Chris Hollis - tests (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Marcia Jones - (Kenya's\* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Eddie Longmire\* - health
- Cindy Marotta - paralyzed (Nunes\*)
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff\* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth\*)
- Ella Parker\* - health
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham\*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott\*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia\*)
- August Eugene Smith - cleft palate (J.English\*)
- Julia Torpey\* - health
- Gloria Vonada\*
- Jan Whitney\*

## Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Cody Davis - Fort Hood, TX
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey\* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kentucky
- Byron Solomon - San Diego

## Cancer

- Kandi Armand - (Brooklyn Bostwick\* mom)
- Justin Barnhart - former member
- Ron Bartanen - cancer
- Darlene Baxley - lung cancer (Baxley\*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis\*)
- Tish Clark - surgery (Hatcher\*)
- Pat Deforest\*
- Brenda Dunham - (J.English\*)
- Eddie English - (R.English\*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley\*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff\*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff\*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley\*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell\*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey\*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill\*)
- Keith Pabst - (Webb\*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin\* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Megan Sanders - brain cancer (Blisse\*)
- Kevin Shanahan - operation (Scott's\* dad)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley\* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff\*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton\*)
- Donnie Turner - cancer (Helms\*)
- David Walther - brain (English\*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

## Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Donna Dudley - Life Care Center (S. Davis\*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia\* - Arcadia Health Care
- Zeb Hamilton\* - Sandy Ridge
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom\*)
- Linda Mann\* - Shut In
- Ina Ruth Miller\* - Grandview Retire Center
- Ruth Phillips\* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts\* - Sodalis house, room 119
- Lillian Raines\* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas\* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - Shut In
- Troy Vonada\* - Sodalis House, Hospice



**SERVING WITH HONOR**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**

**MORNING**

Opening Prayer ..... Josh Owens  
 Song Director ..... Casey Bearden  
 Sermon ..... Trevor Smoot  
 ..... "Everything in the Name of the Lord"  
 Scripture Reading ..... Dane Harrington  
 ..... Colossians 3:14-17  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phillip Webb

**Serving Communion:**

Comments ..... Rhett English  
 Matthew Henry ..... Blake Hatcher  
 David English ..... Pete Pierce  
 ..... Mike Scott

**EVENING**

Opening Prayer ..... Joe King  
 Singing ..... Blake Hatcher  
 Scripture ..... Jared Lee  
 ..... Hebrews 12:1-2  
 Comments ..... Rhett English

**Worship Service and Preparation:**

Communion Prep ..... Stephanie Wilson  
 PowerPoint ..... Connie Bartell  
 Greeters: ..... Elsa Nunes

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

Song Director ..... Brody Crider  
 Opening Prayer ..... Pat Mense

**WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:**

Sunday Bible Class ..... 134  
 AM Worship ..... 188  
 PM Worship ..... 105  
 Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 160  
 Contribution ..... \$8,018

**TIMES OF SERVICES:**

Sunday AM Bible Class ..... 9:00 am  
 Sunday AM Worship ..... 10:00 am  
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship ... 6:00 pm  
 Wednesday PM Bible Class ..... 6:30 pm

**Visitors:**

**Thank you for coming!**  
**You are our honored guest!**

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.  
 Or, ask any member for assistance.

**Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Deadline for all bulletin items is Thursday, by noon.

**EDUCATION**

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!

**WORSHIP**

- Service Rosters are available on the Welcome Desk and Margaret Street website (listed under "Archives")
- "LISTEN" devices available in the foyer, located in the Armoire.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

**STAFF**

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**CONTACT FOR JANUARY:**

Primary ..... Joe Wilson  
 Secondary ..... Phillip Webb

**DEACONS\* & MINISTRIES**

Administration ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell  
 Building & Grounds ..... Greg Lewis\*  
 Education ..... Chris Davis\*  
 Evangelism ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Finance .....  
 Fellowship ..... Jeff Scott\*  
 OWLS ..... Stephen Fulton  
 Involvement ..... Joe Bartell\*  
 Lads to Leaders ..... David English  
 Missions ..... Mike Scott\*  
 Visitation ... Bob Locklin & Rick Martin\*  
 Youth & Family ..... Casey Bearden  
 Worship ..... Blake Hatcher\*